

Each of these landmark events represented a new point of maturation for our nation's Air Commandos. Their exploits over the years have solidified their place in our national security apparatus, and their sacrifices are remembered with solemn respect.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the Air Commando Association and the Air Force Special Operations Community for their service in defense of our freedom.

COMMEMORATING SHUTTLE
COMMANDER CHRIS FERGUSON

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia and the NASTAR Foundation will kick off World Space Week by welcoming Shuttle Commander Chris Ferguson, who led the final U.S. shuttle mission to the International Space Station. When the shuttle returned on July 20th, it marked the end of a 30-year NASA program. Ferguson's mission, the 33rd flight of *Atlantis*, was the 37th shuttle mission to the space station, and the 135th and final mission of NASA's Space Shuttle Program.

Commander Ferguson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his mother Mary Ann and stepfather Norman now reside in Langhorne, Bucks County. Ferguson graduated from Archbishop Ryan High School in Philadelphia, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University. Ferguson also received a master of science in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1991.

In 1986, Ferguson earned his Navy Wings and was ordered to the F-14 Tomcat training squadron in Virginia Beach, VA. Later, he joined the "Red Rippers" of VF-11, deploying to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian oceans onboard the USS *Forrestal*. In 1995, he joined the "Checkmates" of VF-211, completing a deployment to the Western Pacific and Persian Gulf in defense of the Iraqi no-fly zone on board the USS *Nimitz*. Throughout his military career, Ferguson has earned many commendations, including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Navy Strike-Flight Air Medal.

In 1998, Ferguson reported to the Johnson Space Center. He served as spacecraft communicator for the STS-118, 120, 128 and 129 missions. Ferguson was also the pilot of STS-115, and commanded STS-126 and 135. In September 2010, he began training with a crew of four for a rescue mission that evolved into STS-135, a station cargo delivery flight that carried the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module "Raffaello." Being the final flight of Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, Commander Chris Ferguson requested that a stainless steel star cut from an original panel of the Fels Planetarium dome at the Franklin Institute be flown into space aboard the STS-135. Today, the star returns with Commander Ferguson, and will be placed on display at the Franklin Institute, for all to see.

Commander Ferguson is a decorated military officer, and a distinguished son of Penn-

sylvania. The 8th District of Pennsylvania and I are proud to honor him this week.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF MAXIMUM AC-
CESSIBLE HOUSING OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio, a non-profit organization that is committed to developing/facilitating options in housing for persons with physical disabilities.

Maximum Independent Living (MIL) was created in 1981 by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry and Services to address the needs of people with physical disabilities for accessible and affordable housing. During the organization's first seventeen years it focused on its Vistas Apartment Communities in Cleveland, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Avon Lake, Parma and Sheffield Township. Each of the communities is fully accessible and houses more than 150 residents.

After establishing their five living communities, MIL turned its attention to advocacy and education on accessible housing. In 1998, it launched the Accessible Housing Research Center initiative, which provides information and referrals on accessibility and housing, provides educational programs, and advocates with government and community groups to increase accessibility in housing. MIL also played a key role in creating housingcleveland.org, a searchable online database for affordable housing.

Maximum Independent Living changed its name to Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio (MAHO) in 2007 to draw attention to its work on accessibility and housing. More recently, after securing federal funding, MAHO set its plan of building a new Vistas Apartment Community in Cleveland's University Circle neighborhood in motion. The new Circle Vistas will replace the current Vista community on Euclid Avenue.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio as they celebrate 30 years of dedicated service to the Cleveland area's disabled community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDY
McLAUGHLIN OF ST. PAUL, MIN-
NESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ms. Judy McLaughlin, a civic and political leader in St. Paul, Minnesota who passed away on September 5, 2011 at the age of sixty-six. Throughout her adult life Judy was an active and influential leader in the Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party (DFL) and a force in the civic life of St. Paul. She and her late husband, Mike McLaughlin, were the owners of Summit Manor on Summit Avenue in St. Paul.

Their commitment to St. Paul helped transform Ramsey Hill from a historic neighborhood plagued with crime and at risk of decay into a national model for historic preservation.

Along with Mike, Judy was active in Fourth Congressional District and St. Paul DFL politics throughout her life. She knew all the players, all the issues, and had an informed opinion about where her city, state and Nation should be going. She was known to every DFL political leader for four decades, and Summit Manor was a well known venue for political gatherings.

When I got started in politics I knew Mike McLaughlin as a powerful political leader and Judy was most definitely his equal. She worked in the Minnesota State Legislature for the DFL Speaker of the House. She helped work on and guide campaigns for city council, mayor, the state legislature, Congress, and the U.S. Senate.

On a gray, rainy day in October 2002 Minnesota suffered the heartbreaking deaths of Senator Paul Wellstone and his wife, Sheila, along with their daughter and five campaign aides. Judy's son, Will, was one of those staff members who died that tragic morning. While all of Minnesota felt a loss, including many of us who lost dear friends that day, Judy's loss was profound.

Yet, the following day Judy attended a rally for peace on the steps of the Cathedral of St. Paul which was supposed to be attended by Senator Wellstone and her son, who traveled everywhere with the senator. Mayor Chris Coleman of St. Paul described the events of that day as he eulogized Judy saying, "She knew that no cause worth fighting for could die with the death of a few. She had to be there in spite of the immense agony she felt."

I knew Judy as a DFL leader, a local businesswoman, and as a neighbor who I would run into at the local coffee shop or out on a morning walk. She was an anchor in the community and a respected voice. Her passing is a loss for St. Paul and for all the friends and loved ones whom she shared her very full life with.

It was an honor to know Judy. I wish to extend my condolences to her four daughters and two sons. Judy McLaughlin gave so much of herself to family, community, and country. She was true to her beliefs and for that she will always be remembered with fondness, respect and deep appreciation.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
JUDGE OLIVER W. WANGER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding service and dedication of the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger on the occasion of his retirement from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. For the past 20 years, Judge Wanger has served the people of California admirably—maintaining a commitment to justice, fairness, and the law. Moreover, he has been fair-minded and knowledgeable when hearing cases related to the San Joaquin Valley's water and environmental issues.

Judge Wanger received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern California